

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES  
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING  
ROOM 113  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 1999  
8:15 A.M.**

Commissioners Present: Kathy Campbell  
Larry Hudkins  
Linda Steinman

Commissioners Absent: Bernie Heier  
Bob Workman

Others Present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer  
Dave Johnson, Deputy County Attorney  
Bruce Medcalf, County Clerk  
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy County Clerk  
Melissa Koci, County Clerk's Office

**AGENDA ITEM**

**1 APPROVAL OF STAFF MEETING MINUTES OF THURSDAY, JULY 29, 1999, AND TUESDAY, AUGUST 3, 1999**

**MOTION:** Steinman moved and Hudkins seconded approval of the staff meeting minutes of Thursday, July 29, 1999. On call Steinman, Hudkins and Campbell voted aye. Heier and Workman were absent. Motion carried.

**2 ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

There were no additions to the agenda.

**4 STREET NAME CHANGE NO 99004 (DESIGNATE PORTION OF HWY 77 AS HOMESTEAD HERITAGE EXPRESSWAY); SUBDIVISION AND ZONING FEES - Ray Hill and Mike DeKalb, Planning Department; John Bradley, Interim Planning Director**

Ray Hill, Planning, appeared and indicated the Planning Department received a request from Lauren Riedesel, President of The Friends of Homestead, for **Street Name Change No. 99004** to rename Highway 77 south from Interstate 80 to its intersection with Highway 136 as "Homestead Heritage Expressway". He said the change would also include a portion of South 12<sup>th</sup> Street and Salt Valley Roadway. Hill indicated the State Highway Commission wanted the City Council and County Board to make a recommendation to them as to whether or not it is acceptable. He said there would then be a meeting with the Highway Commission, and upon approval by the Governor, the City Council will be requested to adopt an ordinance and the County Board will be requested to pass a resolution so naming the roadway.

John Bradley, Interim Planning Director, appeared and said the cost of the signage could be significant in changing the name and the County Board should be aware of who will pay for the signs.

Hill reported the City street name signs run around \$115 to \$150 apiece and they are a lot smaller than the ones that will need to be changed.

Allen Grell, Gage County, Friend of the Homestead and Gage County Supervisor, appeared and indicated he visited with the Department of Roads and siting people and received some estimates on the costs of signage. He briefly discussed the signs that are currently on the highway now and also said the costs of the signs will be paid by the applicant.

The Board agreed the best name for the highway should be "Homestead Expressway".

Mark Engler, Superintendent of Homestead National Monument, National Park Service, distributed documentation regarding Homestead National Monument (Exhibit 1) and indicated they will discuss the documentation further at the Tuesday Board meeting they attend.

Bradley distributed documentation regarding the City of Lincoln, **Subdivision and Zoning Fee Schedules** as of July 19, 1999 (Exhibit 2) and indicated that in FY97-98 the County collected \$4,619 in fees. Bradley said he would like the County to become parallel with the new City fees, which in some cases would more than double the fees of certain applications. The County's fees haven't changed in 20 years. He said, for instance, in the City it costs \$100 for a final plat plus \$10 a lot, and in the County it cost \$1 a lot.

Campbell said that anything that occurs within the 3-mile, the applicant pays the City fees.

Campbell suggested to the Planning Department to look at the Board of Zoning Appeal advertising because she is more comfortable charging \$100 and not \$195.

Hudkins wanted an example of a Change of Zone, where there are other districts, greater than 1 acre.

DeKalb indicated it includes the Industrial and Business Districts. DeKalb also reported that in the Special Permit section where it is greater than 1 acre, the County's are usually the trailer people who want to put a trailer on a lot for 3 years, or for mom and dad as a second lot. He suggested breaking it down to residential and commercial.

## 9 ACTION ITEMS

- a. Topics for Monthly Meeting with Mayor

Hudkins reported at the Public Building Commission meeting they discussed having an art policy. He suggested talking to the Mayor about the new art because the Arts Committee had some legitimate concerns about the eagle, but the Mayor had already accepted it.

## 5 LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE - Bill Kostner, City Risk Manager

Bill Kostner, appeared and distributed documentation regarding Long-term Care Insurance (Exhibit 3) and indicated he would like to solicit proposals from insurers for long-term care insurance. Kostner said it would be at no cost to the County with all costs being paid by the employee and it covers the employee, spouse, parent or parent-in-law. He reported it is a newer benefit that covers nursing home or adult day care after a waiting period, provides a daily payment as reimbursement and direct payment for the care. Kostner said in order to qualify for Medicaid in Nebraska, a person would have to deplete all but \$10,356 for a family.

He said he would like to get the long-term care insurance as a City/County request for proposals because with a large base of employees it should be reasonably priced.

Hudkins asked about the eligibility of the policy if an employee retires or terminates employment with Lancaster County.

Kostner said he is very willing to make the plan portable so the employee can take the monies with them.

Georgia Glass, Personnel Director, appeared and said if an employee has PEHP money, those monies can be used to pay for premiums for long-term care.

**MOTION:** Hudkins moved and Steinman seconded to authorize City/County Personnel to pursue a long-term care insurance request for proposals. On call Steinman, Hudkins and Campbell voted aye. Motion carried.

Campbell suggested asking Larry Van Hunnik, Lancaster Manor, to be on the RFP review committee because he has a lot of experience with long-term care.

Kostner said he would also look at Lincoln Electric System and Lincoln Public Schools and their use for long-term care insurance.

## 6 COUNTY VETERANS SERVICES QUARTERLY AND ANNUAL REPORT - Gary Chalupa, Veterans Services Officer

Gary Chalupa, Veterans Services Officer, appeared and distributed documentation regarding the County Veterans Services Quarterly and Annual Report (Exhibit 4). Chalupa indicated the Veterans Administration is going through a difficult period because they recognize nursing home care as a medical expense when computing pension amounts, but they don't recognize home health care as a medical expense.

Chalupa reported his office is doing 3 times the workload now compared to 5 years ago and he feels that people feel more comfortable with him and Rick Ringlein in office. He said his office is also currently sending out letters to the widows of Veterans telling them that if they come in they will receive a free \$10 flag holder for their spouse's grave. Chalupa said it usually gets the person to come into the office and at the same time there have been instances where the widow receives additional monies after the Veteran's Office finds out more information about the Veteran.

Chalupa also said he is impressed with the two World War I Veterans which have both turned 100 years old.

Campbell suggested bringing the two World War I Veterans to the Tuesday, November 9, 1999 County Board meeting around Veterans Day so they can be recognized and honored.

Steinman asked if John Graf, a member of the Veterans' Service Committee, was replaced.

Chalupa said he was replaced by Billy D Williams.

The Board agreed to discuss a date for the Management Team retreat at the August 12, 1999 County Board Staff meeting.

## **9 ACTION ITEMS CONTINUED:**

### **a. Topics for Monthly Meeting with Mayor**

Hudkins suggested reporting to the Mayor that the full funding for the Rural Transportation Safety District has been restored.

Campbell said the Mayor will probably want to discuss baseball and said she will let the Mayor bring up the subject.

## **7 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT FOR LINWELD - Troy Gagner, Economic Development Coordinator**

Troy Gagner, Economic Development Coordinator, appeared and indicated Linweld doesn't have any room to expand so they are looking for a new location with one being land adjacent their property in Waverly. Gagner noted he met with Linweld and Doug Rix from Waverly and discussed what options were available. He said Lancaster County's job retention/creation program offers up to \$10,000 per job created and if Hastings and Kearney would both be utilizing state CDBG dollars, it would allow up to \$35,000 per job created. He suggested amending the plan to go beyond the \$10,000 per job created and for the plan to say something like, "At the Boards discretion, an applicant may be eligible for a certain amount of dollars." Gagner said the request will most likely be under \$750,000, which is under \$21,000 a job.

Hudkins asked about the new facility on Cornhusker Highway.

Gagner said the facility on 6<sup>th</sup> & N Street is their Cylinder Distribution Center.

Gagner reported he received a request from the Banner House Fabrics bank asking for subordination from Lancaster County on the first \$5,000 of the \$28,000 that was loaned. He indicated the Banner House owner has been working with the REAP Program and has finally become current on all her monthly payments.

Gagner also reported he has been working with Kinko's but has not been able to speak with anybody. He said nobody will return his calls so he turned over the file to the County Attorney's Office.

Eagan asked if Kinko's was current on their other obligations.

Gagner said he thought they were current with everyone except Lancaster County and maybe with their bank loan.

Gagner also indicated he has spoken with the Ag Society regarding the Lancaster County Event Center, who said they are interested in developing a hotel/restaurant in the future.

## **9 ACTION ITEMS CONTINUED:**

- b. Authorize Contract for Mental Health Evaluations and Recommendations with Charles Thieson for Juvenile Expeditor Services Plan (Approximately \$7,500 from the Nebraska Crime Commission Grant)

This item was deferred for one week so that Kit Boesch could speak on behalf of the item.

- c. Vacation Request from Doug Ahlberg for Wednesday, August 4 through Tuesday, August 10, 1999

**MOTION:** Steinman moved and Hudkins seconded approval of the vacation request from Doug Ahlberg. On call Hudkins, Steinman and Campbell voted aye. Motion carried.

## **10 CONSENT ITEMS**

There were no Consent Items.

## **11 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT**

- a. County Sign Regulations

Eagan reported he received a SYSM message from Planning which said Tim from LaMars stopped by the Planning Department to get a copy of the County Zoning map. His concerns were in regards to the City Moratorium on billboards within Lincoln's jurisdiction and they expect some pressures from sign companies to come to the County Board and ask them to loosen the regulations. He said LaMars is looking at putting a billboard out by Brunswick, which is zoned Industrial and is currently allowed.

Campbell suggested to Eagan to SYSM Nicole Tooze thanking her for the heads up and if there are any inquiries on billboards that the County Board would like to know about them. She also referred the articles regarding County Sign Regulations to the County Attorney's Office for their review.

b. Additional Part-Time Hours for Records Management

Eagan reported there has been an on-the-job injury in the Records Management Office and Brian Pillard is requesting additional part-time hours in order to meet his delivery requirements. Eagan said he authorized the additional hours for part-time employee John Cooper and wanted the Board to be aware of this action.

c. Mailing on Common Agenda for Additional Items

Eagan distributed a SYSM message from Joan Ray regarding the August 20, 1999 8:00 a.m. Common Meeting (Exhibit 5).

Steinman suggested having an update on baseball.

### **13 DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS**

a. Ecological Advisory Committee - Heier

Heier was absent.

b. Public Building Commission - Campbell, Hudkins

Hudkins reported there was a recommendation to install panic bars on the 2 double doors so that they only open from the inside out. He said the hardware is on order and should be here within 10 days and when it is received it will immediately be installed. Hudkins said there was some discussion locking the 2 doors in Room 113, but they decided that it wasn't a good idea because a lot of people use it for a staging area or overflow crowd. Also discussed was the doors between the Council Chambers and the City Council Office and it was decided not to lock those doors. Hudkins indicated there are going to be 7 additional security buzzers installed under the dais and the agenda box will be moved to the back door. He said they also talked about where to hang office signs to let people know where they are going.

Campbell said she would like the County Commissioner's doors closed because otherwise it invites people to come into their office and they should also be closed for security purposes.

Campbell also reported they discussed putting in a bathroom under the stairs for the City Council and County Commissioners use.

### **8 SPECIAL DESIGNATED PERMITS - Sheriff Terry Wagner**

Campbell suggested setting up a meeting with every Village Board in each of the Commissioner's District.

Terry Wagner, County Sheriff, appeared and briefly discussed the issue of Special Designated Alcohol Permits for villages and cities in Lancaster County, specifically regarding the lack of control the Board has and the costs that are incurred by Lancaster County. He indicated there was a recent Special Designated Permit issued that cost Lancaster County thousands of dollars.

Campbell asked if there is something that the Village can require the sponsor or organization to do before an event is sponsored.

Wagner suggested requiring the people who will be taking over the duties of the County Sheriff work a little longer, which would end up costing more money to Lancaster County.

Hudkins said he thought there was a piece of paper that noted what the volunteer needed to be aware of, along with a check list of items they need to follow and then signed before they began working.

Campbell suggested that each Board member go with the County Sheriff to meet with the Village Clerks and then offer a training for the Village Boards. The County Board is encouraging each Clerk to attend because it will help in putting together the qualifications. She suggested encouraging not only a Board member, but their attorney because the people have a big liability they are dealing with.

Wagner asked about the limitations he has proposed which require that the hired deputies stay for a couple of hours after the event to make sure everything is put away and that there are no problems that are arising. He also said if he cannot find enough deputies to cover the dance/festival they would hire security guards to man the doors.

Campbell said the Board should support the Sheriff.

Eagan suggested looking at the contracts with villages for law enforcement services and adding language for additional charges if extra law enforcement services are required because of problems at large events with numerous intoxicated individuals.

Campbell suggested to Eagan to visit with the County Sheriff and come up with a list of criteria for any Special Event in an unincorporated area that the Board will require training by hospitality.

**MOTION:** Steinman moved and Hudkins seconded to accept the Sheriff's report and the recommendation that the County Commissioner's make themselves available to work with the Villages on their decisions involving Special Designated Permits. On call Hudkins, Steinman and Campbell voted aye. Motion carried.

### **13 DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETING CONTINUED:**

- a. Public Building Commission - Campbell, Hudkins

Campbell reported the PBC wanted specialty roaming cameras so they are able to roam the audience.

Campbell also said there is a 2-week delay in the carpet for the new Hall of Justice System.

Hudkins said they discussed a possibility of art work called the "Rail Joiner", which is a Lincoln statue placed at both ends of the mall.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

At the direction of the Chair, the meeting was adjourned.

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Bruce Medcalf  
Lancaster County Clerk